CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for adding user-provided content to a content object stored as a plurality of content entities in a data repository, comprising the steps of:

Defining the object by a list of content entity identifiers;

Receiving user-provided content, assigning it an identifier, and storing it with its identifier in the data repository; and

10   Adding the identifier to the list, whereby the user-provided content is added to the object.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of receiving a user-provided location for inserting the content entity into the content object, and inserting the identifier into the list at that location.

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3. The method of claim 2, further comprising the steps of providing a user interface communicating with the data repository, and providing mechanisms for receiving the user-provided content and specification of a desired location through the user interface.

4. A method for adding user-provided content to a hierarchically structured content object stored as a plurality of content entities in a data repository, comprising the steps of:

Defining the content object by a hierarchical outline of containers and content entity identifiers;

Receiving user-provided content, assigning it an identifier, and storing it with its

25   identifier in the data repository; and

Adding the identifier to the outline, thereby adding the user-provided content to the object.

5.   The method of claim 4, further comprising the step of receiving a user-provided location for inserting the content entity into the content object, and inserting the identifier into the outline at that location.

5   6.   The method of claim 4, wherein the user-provided content comprises a content entity.

7.   The method of claim 4, wherein the user-provided content comprises a container.

8.   The method of claim 5, further comprising the steps of providing a user interface

10   communicating with the data repository, and providing mechanisms for receiving the user-provided content and specification of a desired location through the user interface.

9.   A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for adding user-provided content

15   to a content object stored as a plurality of content entities in a data repository, comprising the steps of:

Defining the object by a list of content entity identifiers;

Receiving user-provided content, assigning it an identifier, and storing it with its identifier in the data repository; and

20   Adding the identifier to the list, whereby the user-provided content is added to the object.

10.   The method of claim 9, further comprising the step of receiving a user-provided location for inserting the content entity into the content object, and inserting the identifier into the list at that location.

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11.   The method of claim 10, further comprising the steps of providing a user interface communicating with the data repository, and providing mechanisms for receiving the user-provided content and specification of a desired location through the user interface.

12. A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for adding user-provided content to a hierarchically structured content object stored as a plurality of content entities in a data repository, comprising the steps of:

Defining the content object by a hierarchical outline of containers and content entity identifiers;

Receiving user-provided content, assigning it an identifier, and storing it with its identifier in the data repository; and

Adding the identifier to the outline, thereby adding the user-provided content to the object.

13. The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of receiving a user-provided location for inserting the content entity into the content object, and inserting the identifier into the outline at that location.

14. The method of claim 12, wherein the user-provided content comprises a content entity.

15. The method of claim 12, wherein the user-provided content comprises a container.

16. The method of claim 13, further comprising the steps of providing a user interface communicating with the data repository, and providing mechanisms for receiving the user-provided content and specification of a desired location through the user interface.

17. A system for adding user-provided content to a content object stored as a plurality of content entities in a data repository, comprising:

Means for defining the object by a list of content entity identifiers;

Means for receiving user-provided content, assigning it an identifier, and storing it with its identifier in the data repository; and

Means for adding the identifier to the list, whereby the user-provided content is added to the object.

18.   The system of claim 17, further comprising means for receiving a user-provided location for inserting the content entity into the content object, and means for inserting the identifier into the list at that location.

5   19.   The system of claim 18, further comprising a user interface communicating with the data repository, and a mechanism for receiving the user-provided content and specification of a desired location through the user interface.

20.   A system for adding user-provided content to a hierarchically structured content object stored as a plurality of content entities in a data repository, comprising the steps of:

        Means for defining the content object by a hierarchical outline of containers and content entity identifiers;

        Means for receiving user-provided content, assigning it an identifier, and storing it with its identifier in the data repository; and

15   Means for adding the identifier to the outline, thereby adding the user-provided content to the object.

21.   The system of claim 20, further comprising means for receiving a user-provided location for inserting the content entity into the content object, and means for inserting the identifier into

20   the outline at that location.

22.   The system of claim 20, wherein the user-provided content comprises a content entity.

23.   The system of claim 20, wherein the user-provided content comprises a container.

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24.   The system of claim 21, further comprising a user interface communicating with the data repository, and a mechanisms for receiving the user-provided content and specification of a desired location through the user interface.